

BOOK REVIEWS

Encyclopaedia of Urology. Vol. IX/2, Specific Inflammations. Editors: C. E. Alken (Hamburg), V. W. Dix (London), H. M. Weyrauch (San Francisco), E. Wildbolz (Berne) 1959. Pp. 564, 90 figs. Springer, Berlin. (*D.M.* 158).

This Encyclopaedia of Urology will comprise sixteen volumes and provide a detailed and massive account of all aspects of urology. Volume IX/2 is published in English and falls into three parts. In the first part (221 pages), Prof. Einar Ljunggren and four colleagues deal with urogenital tuberculosis; in the second part (83 pages), parasitic infections of the genito-urinary tract are fully described by R. Campbell Begg of Johannesburg; the third part, contributed by Ambrose J. King, Senior Physician, The London Hospital Clinic for Venereal Disease, considers the specific venereal infections (excluding gonorrhoea which is to be dealt with in Volume IX/1). This third part includes sections on syphilis (72 pages), lymphogranuloma venereum (35 pages), granuloma inguinale (40 pages), and chancroid (32 pages), with references which, even in small print, occupy an additional 35 pages. The whole volume also has separate author and subject indexes (42 pages). The majority of the illustrations (some in colour) and figures relate to the sections on tuberculosis (65) and parasitic infections (25); typographical errors are extremely few and paper, print and production are all of a high standard.

The reviewer can write only of the section devoted to venereal infections. This excellent work is truly encyclopaedic; it is largely intended for reference and this is facilitated by the clarity of the subdivisions and their subheadings. The items from the literature have been carefully selected and their skilful blending represents the vintage distillate from the literary harvests of many summers. The wide and careful reading of the extensive literature, which was an essential prerequisite to the writing of this third section, must have made extremely heavy demands on the industry and application of the author. In

warmly welcoming the result we can assure him that his labours have been well worthwhile; his section of the Encyclopaedia of Urology should be *at hand* in all departments concerned with venereal diseases. S.M.L.

A Handbook of Diseases of the Skin. By H. O. Mackey. 1960. Pp. 241 and 22, illus. Macmillan, London. (8s. 6d.).

This little book has been compiled by Dr. Mackey for students and for general practitioners as a guide to the clinical study and treatment of the common dermatoses. It is essentially a practical work and, although simple in style and without any pretensions to being an exhaustive treatise, it covers the ground for the student clearly and without fuss, mercifully omitting many of the contradictory and often unproven theories of aetiology.

The early chapters dealing with basic anatomy and embryology, pathology, and physiology, and the general approach to symptomatology and treatment are, to my mind, the most valuable in the book, and quite adequate. Other chapters, including the section on Venereal Diseases, demand some supplementary reading.

The illustrations, always of importance in any textbook of dermatology, are numerous and for the most part good, although one does miss the visual impact of up-to-date colour photography. To get the utmost value from the laudably concise and didactic text I would suggest that the student, finances permitting, should use in conjunction with it one of the modern skin atlases in colour.

Emphasis is laid on the value of skilled nursing by the inclusion of a section on the nursing of skin diseases and there is a worthwhile formulary of prescriptions.

The book, well printed and attractively presented, should prove most useful to student and practitioner and is remarkable value for its moderate cost.

A.J.G.